

WRITING ASSESSMENT
Write your final composition here.

G 19a

Imagine holding a machine in your hands, and a tube-like thing in your mouth. You breathe in crisp fresh air that a cigarette has taken away from you. You quickly remove the tube to cough. As you cough you feel a fire in your throat. You grab your throat in pain and then feel a fire in your lungs. You take a drink of your ice water beside you in hopes of extinguishing the flames inside your body. You feel the water trickle down your throat, and almost instantly flame goes out. As you cough, hack, and weeze you feel a great deal of pain in your lungs. Now imagine watching that through a 13 year old girl's eyes. The man I just described is my father, and that girl is me. If I could have one wish it would be to heal my dad's lungs.

My father works extremely hard for me and my little brother, but it is a rough journey for him. My father has smoked since he was in the fifth grade, and he still does. He can't do a lot of things with us other kids do with their kids. He can't run a lot, swim, or take hikes in the woods. A lot of doctors have told my dad he won't live for ten more years. Others have told him he will live very long. When I imagine myself graduating and looking into the swarm of faces and not seeing my dad, I cry for hours. I am very protective of him even when I'm away from him. For example, if someone says something bad about him, I fight back. I fear losing him because I couldn't imagine life without him. My father has told me for years not to smoke, but my real lesson is talking at him and seeing what it could do. My dad can't go thirty minutes without a cigarette. I would do anything to be able to heal his lungs.

My wish would let my dad spend more time with us. If this could happen it would affect my whole family's lives. For example, mine would be a lot more

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for. He would be able to play soccer with me, swim with me, and do a lot of other things as well. My brother would also be able to spend more time.

Many kids take their fathers for granted. I would never take mine for granted. To be able to play, run, jump, with our fathers is truly a gift. Maybe my wish will come true and I will get a gift as well.

Score Point: 5

This response reflects a strong degree of proficiency in expository writing skills. The writer effectively introduces the response with a graphic description of a father's illness. This is followed by a smooth transition to the writer's special wish to heal that illness. Facility in the use of language, syntactic variety, and sophisticated vocabulary are displayed (in hopes of extinguishing the flames inside your body, you feel the water trickle down your throat, and looking into the swarm of faces). However, this level of development is not sustained throughout the response. In addition, stronger organization would be required for a higher score.